

REMARKS

Applicant has amended the claims to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter disclosed in the specification. Thus, independent Claims 1, 5 and 6 have been amended. Claims 2, 3, 4, 7 and 9 have been withdrawn and canceled without prejudice.

Numeration is proposed for the drawing to confirm with the specification and a set of the drawings with the proposed changes in red is enclosed, along with a revised set of the drawings which are so marked.

Briefly, the invention relates to a drawer slide latch release mechanism which is comprised of an array of cantilever springs mounted on a slide channel and interactive to engage with lugs on one of the channels and thereby lock the channels in an open position. An auxiliary latch release mechanism, typically in the form of a cantilever spring, is also utilized to release the spring members from channel engagement totally so that one channel may be totally removed from a second channel. The assembly also includes a reset mechanism which enables the channel slide release feature of the assembly to be reset after it has been actuated.

Thus, by way of example, a first channel 3 includes a series of three cantilever spring mounted members including a first member 8 with a second member 9 overlying the first member 8 and a third cantilever spring member 6 overlying, at least in part, the second cantilever member 9. These three members 6, 8 and 9 are all mounted on the web of a single slide channel member 3. They are mounted so that spring member 6 overlies spring member 9 which overlies spring member 8. A fourth or auxiliary cantilever spring member 10 is mounted on the second channel 4. The auxiliary spring member 10 is effective to release simultaneously all of the other spring members from engagement with lugs 7 associated with the second channel member 4 so that the first channel member 3 may be disengaged in total from the second channel member 4.

The function of the slidable spring member 9, however, is to effect release of the spring member 8 from engagement with the lug 7 of the second channel member. The function of the cantilever spring 10 is to release both of the spring members 6 and 8 from engagement with the lug 7. Further included is a bumper member 20 which effectively engages a lug 13 of the spring member 9 to reset of the spring member 9.

The Examiner rejected the claims, as anticipated, on the basis of two references namely *Hutchins*, U.S. Patent No. 6,373,707 and *Devine*, U.S. Patent No. 6,554,379. Applicant notes that the present application has been amended to particularly claim the combination of the first and second slide channels 3 and 4, the first cantilever spring member 8, the lug 7, the cantilever spring 8 release member 9, the second cantilever spring 6, and the auxiliary release spring or member 10. The first spring member 8 and the second spring member 6 as well as the release spring member 9 are all mounted on the first channel 3. The auxiliary release member 10 is mounted on the second channel 4.

Applicant submits that none of the references teach this combination of spring members and their interaction and relative relationship. At most, the *Devine* reference teaches the utilization of a single spring member which interacts with a slide member. These members appear to be depicted in Figures 7 and 8 of the *Devine* reference. There is no teaching of the combination of multiple related interacting spring members as set forth in amended Claim 1.

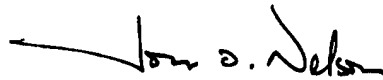
In the *Hutchins* reference, the slide element 152 referenced in Figure 8 is apparently analogous to a channel member. This slide member interacts and slides in grooves in the channel member 140. Attached to the channel member 140 are two cantilever spring members 178 and 186 which interact with openings in the channel 140, but not with each other as now claimed. A slide release member 166 interacts with the spring members 178, 186. There is no showing of a

series of overlying interacting cantilever spring members as claimed wherein three such spring members are mounted on a single channel. There is clearly no showing of an auxiliary cantilever spring member analogous to the spring member 10 in the presently amended claim 1. Thus, the functionality and operation of the release mechanism is different and clearly not anticipated by the references cited.

The remaining references cited by the Examiner are believed to be even less pertinent and clearly distinguishable for the reasons set forth above. Therefore, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks it is believed that the claims in their amended condition are allowable. Reconsideration and passage to allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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FIG. 1

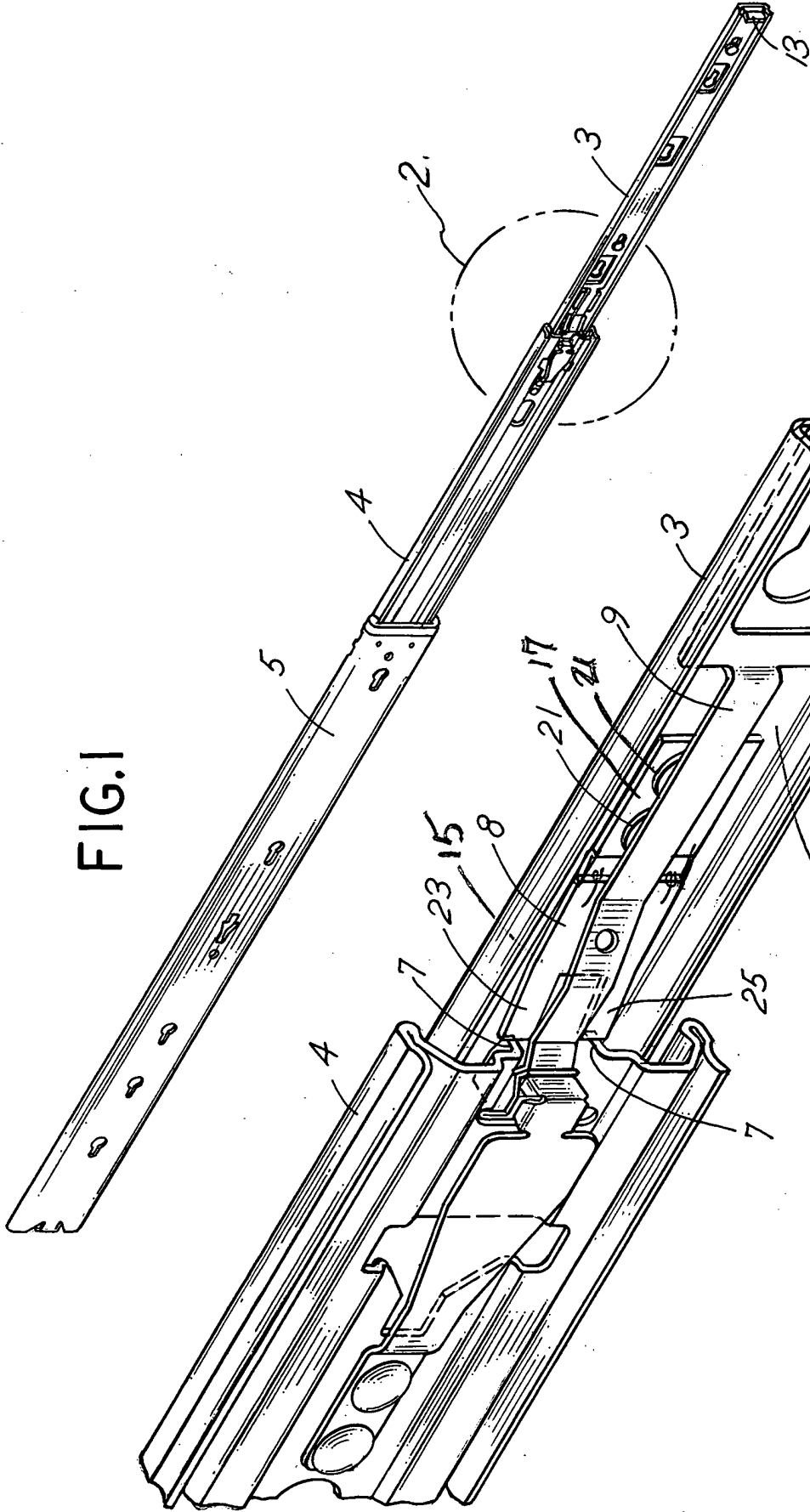
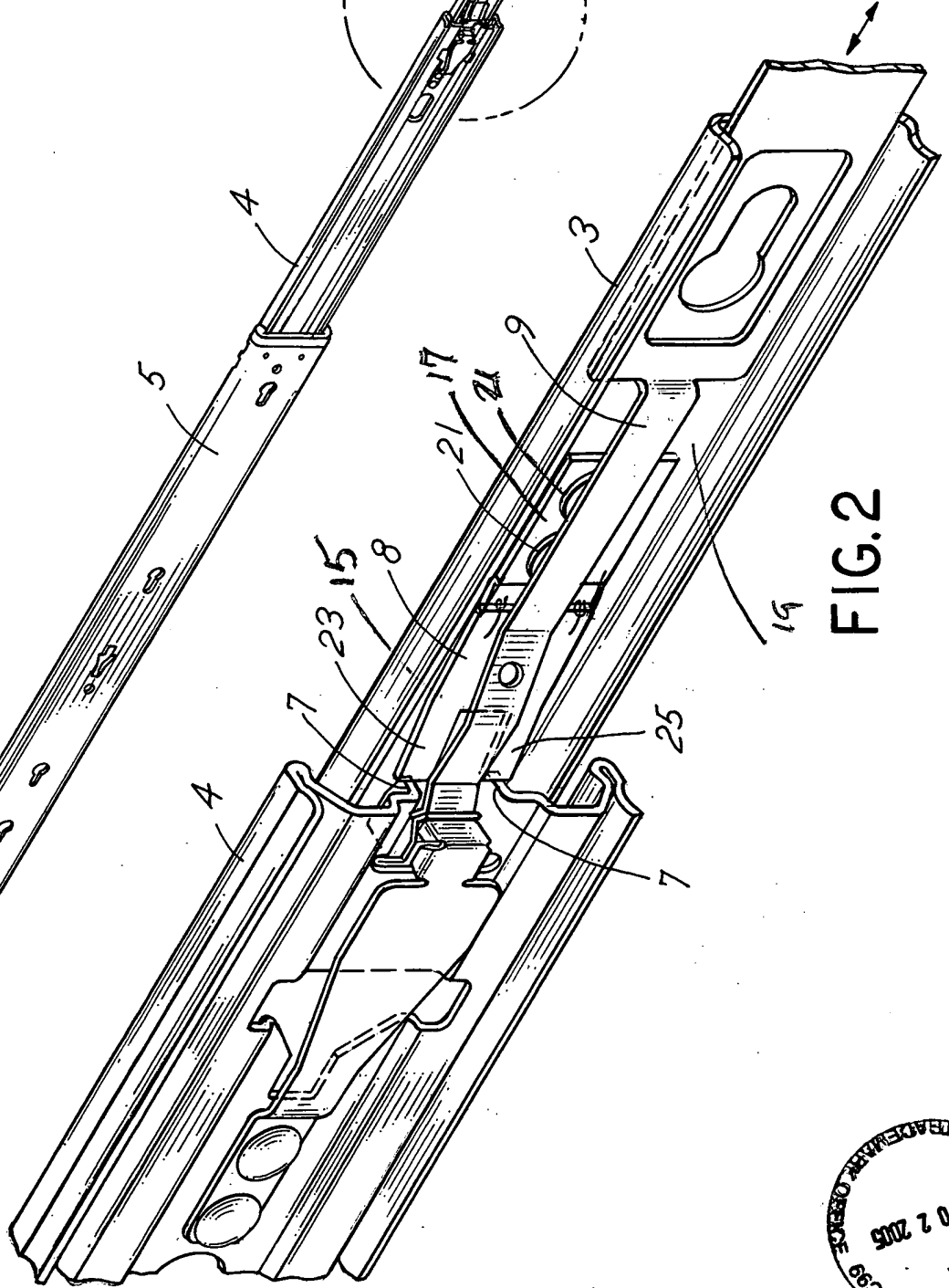


FIG. 2



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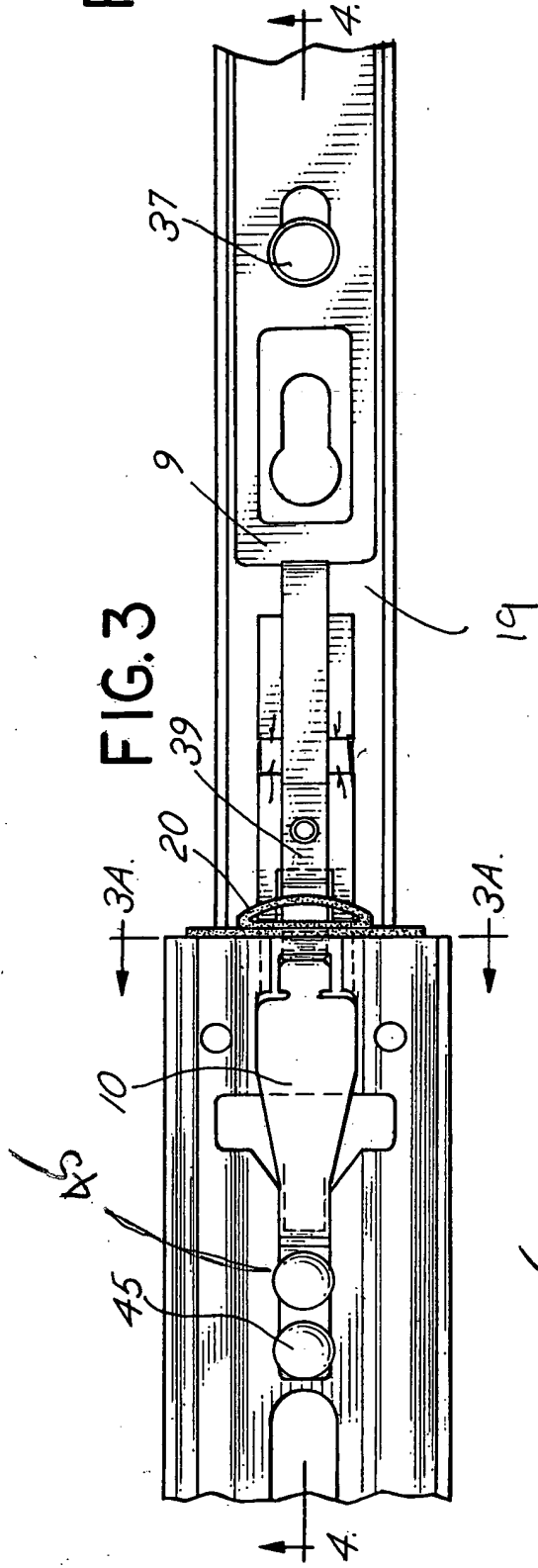


FIG. 3

FIG. 3A

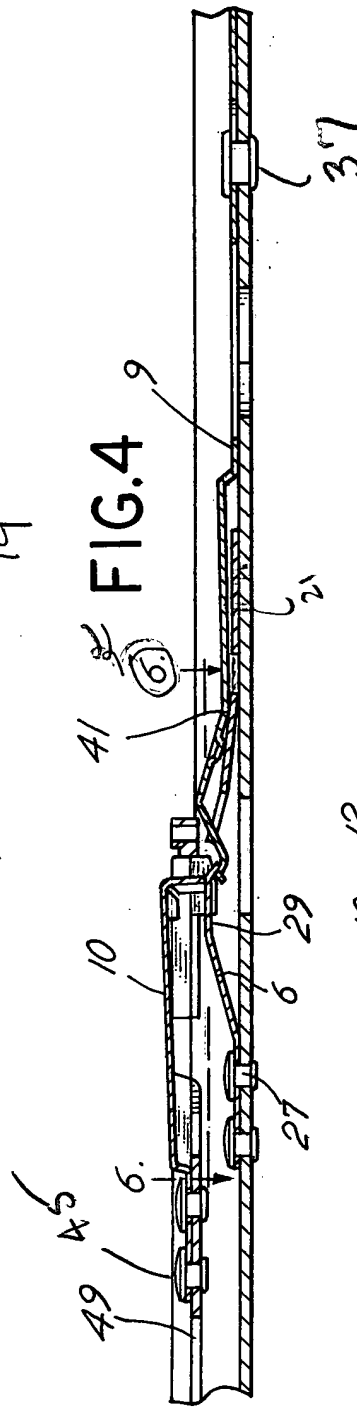
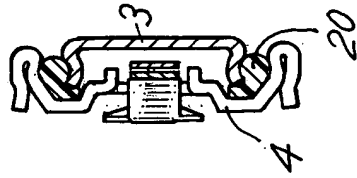


FIG. 4

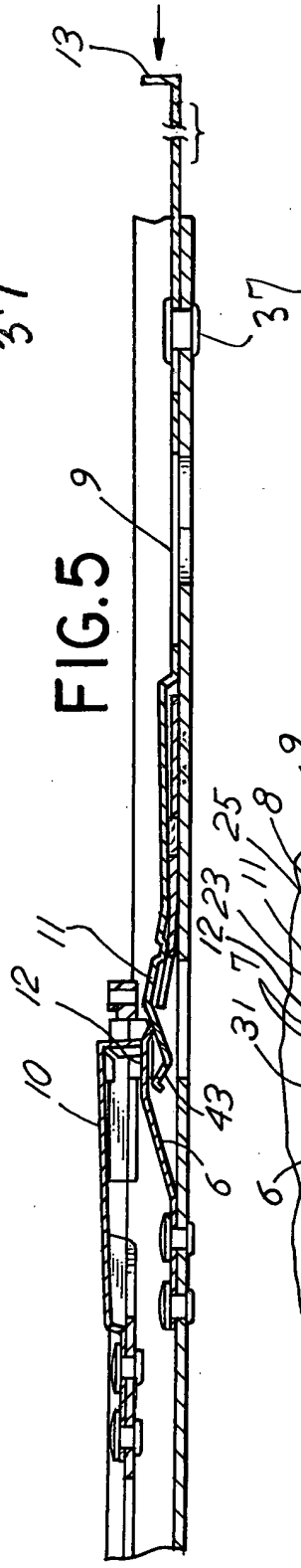


FIG. 5

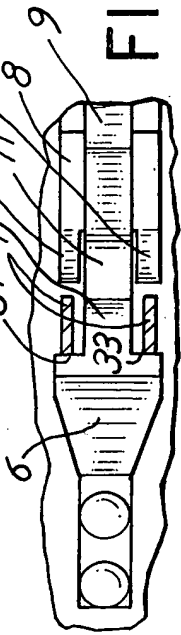
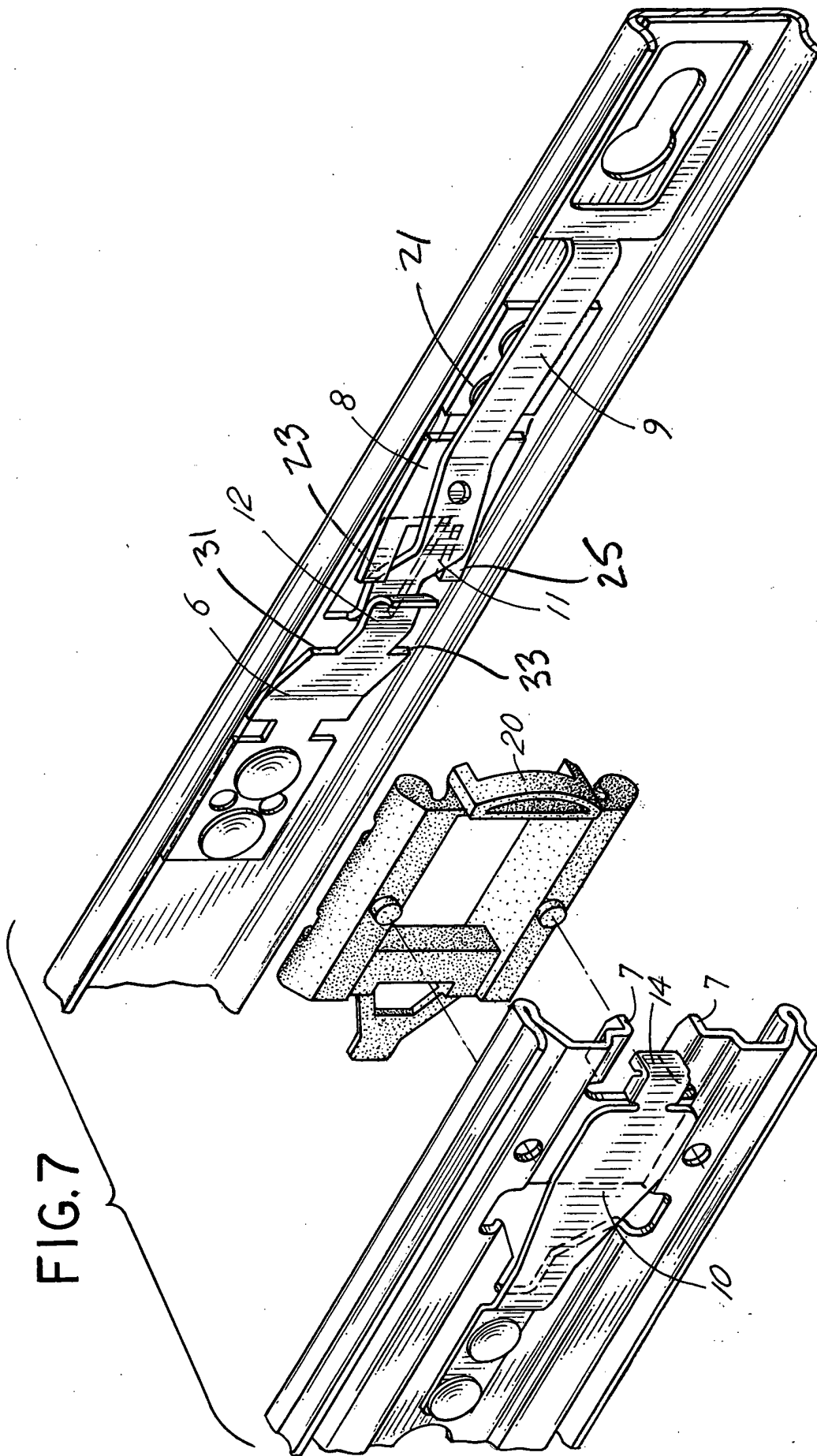


FIG. 6





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FIG.8

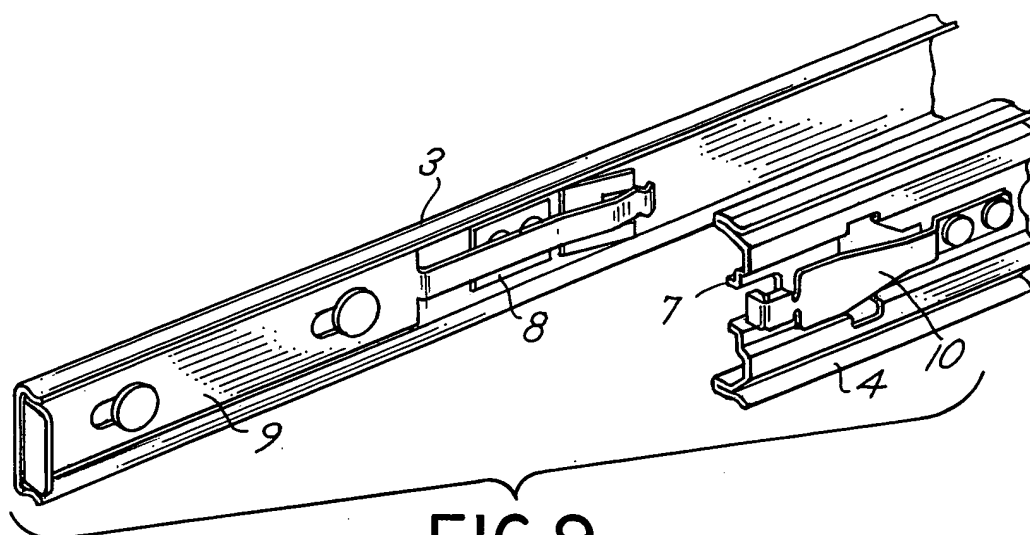
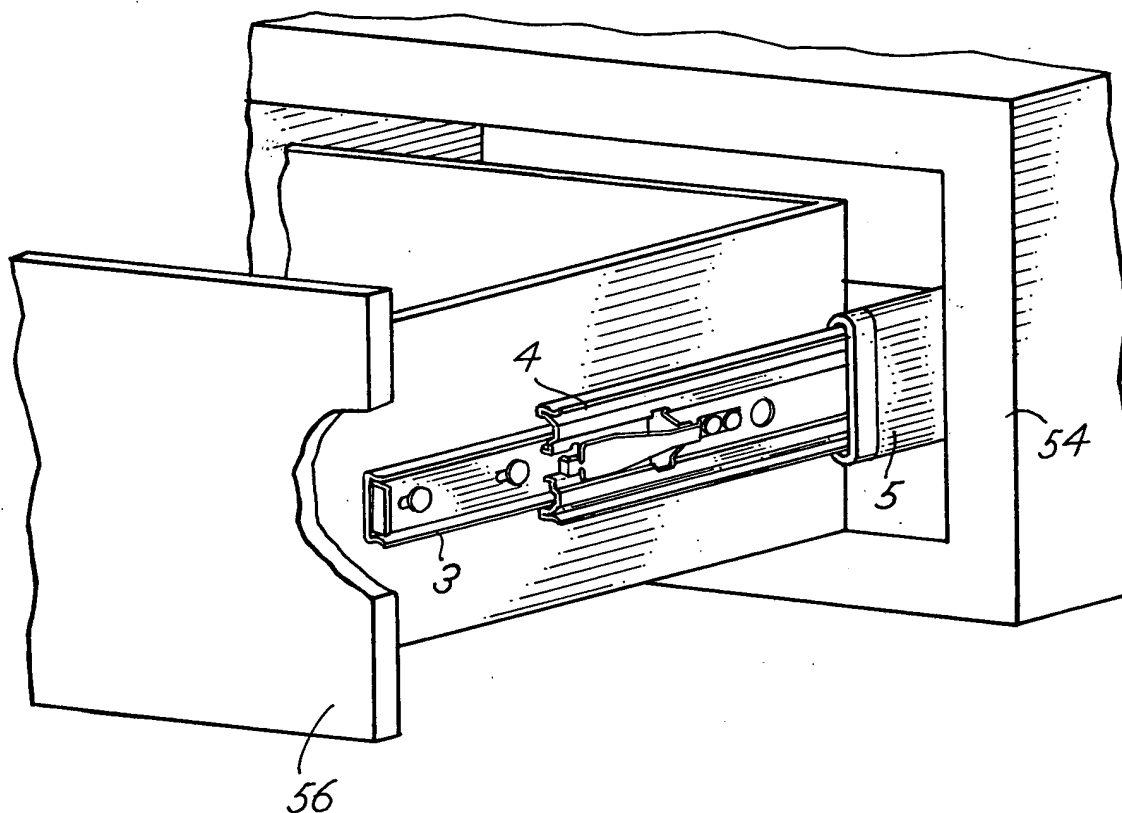


FIG.9

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